



# County of San Diego

NICK MACCHIONE, FACHE  
DIRECTOR

## HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AGENCY PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICES

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Emergency Medical Care Committee  
Jim Marugg, Chair/Travis Kusman, Vice-Chair  
c/o Emergency Medical Services  
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Community Epidemiology  
Emergency & Disaster Medical Services  
HIV, STD and Hepatitis  
Immunization  
Maternal, Child and Family Health Services  
Public Health Laboratory  
PH Nursing/Border Health  
TB Control & Refugee Health  
Vital Records

### MISSION STATEMENT

*"As advisor to the San Diego County Board of Supervisors, the Mission of the Emergency Medical Care Committee is to be an advocate for the community through the development of strategies for continuous improvement of the emergency medical services system."*

## EMERGENCY MEDICAL CARE COMMITTEE

### Minutes

Thursday, January 27, 2011

#### Members Present

Carlson, R.N., Sharon – Hospital Assoc of S.D./Imp Co. (Alt)  
Dotson, R.N., Melody – BHNC  
Fisher, Chief Gary – S.D. Co. Fire Districts' Association  
Forman, R.N., Kelly – Co. Paramedic Agencies'  
Green, R.N., Katy – First District  
Kusman, Travis – S.D. Co. Ambulance Association  
Marugg, Jim – S.D. Co. Paramedics' Association  
Ponce, Cruz – American Red Cross  
Rosenberg, R.N., Linda – Emergency Nurses Association

#### Vacant

Binational EMCC  
San Diego Emergency Physicians' Society  
League of California Cities  
S.D. County Medical Society

#### Recorder

Janet I. Wolchko

#### Members Absent

Cerny, Barbara – Third District  
Fried, Bruce – Fifth District  
Jacoby, M.D., Jake – Fourth District  
Meadows-Pitt, R.N., Mary – Second District  
Milakovich, Lt. Jenene – Law Enforcement Agencies  
Pfohl, Bob – S.D. Co. Fire Chiefs' Association

#### Guests Present

Broyles, R.N., Linda – RCCP/AMR  
Jeckell, Andrew – Loma Linda University  
Smith, Lindsay – Loma Linda University  
Valdez, Bob – Reach Air Medical

#### County Staff Present

Buttron, Patrick  
Metz, R.N., Marcy  
Pate, R.N., Rebecca

## I. CALL TO ORDER/INTRODUCTIONS/ANNOUNCEMENTS

Jim Marugg, Chairperson called the meeting to order at 9:12 a.m. Attendees introduced themselves.

## **II. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR FOR 2011**

**A motion was made by Kelly Forman, seconded by Gary Fischer to re-nominate Jim Marugg as Chair and Travis Kusman as Vice-Chair of EMCC for 2011. Motion carried.**

The Chairperson and Vice Chairperson may serve a maximum of two successive terms. Jim Marugg and Travis Kusman will be Chair and Vice-Chairs respectively for a second term.

## **III. PUBLIC COMMENTS/PETITIONS**

There were no public speakers.

Cruz Ponce, American Red Cross (ARC) representative, announced that on October 22<sup>nd</sup> the ARC signed a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with the Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA) to jointly lead in the planning and coordination of mass care services. ARC will assist states in planning and coordinating their mass care services for sheltering, feeding, distribution of emergency supplies, and reuniting families separated by disasters. On November 1, 2010, FEMA release a guidance plan for integration of functional needs support services in general population shelters. On the first or second week of March, the ARC will reconvene the Access and Functional Needs Committee to discuss the MOA and how the new planning guidance integrates with prehospital care during disasters.

Marcy Metz asked if there will be provisions for continued first aid at the shelters. Cruz Ponce responded that during evacuation, if a patient needs medication or equipment they have forgotten that cannot be provided readily by the shelter, that patient will be referred to a hospital.

Sharon Carlson suggested that the subject should be discussed at the Disaster Council and HPP group meetings regarding the impact it might have on the hospitals and agencies.

ARC has worked with the Office of Emergency Services (OES) and Paul Murray, Health and Human Services, on how the changes may affect emergency services within the County.

## **IV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Motion was made by Kelly Forman to approve the October 28, 2010 minutes. Motion carried.**

## **V. STANDING COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **A. Prehospital/Hospital (Jim Marugg)**

The EMCC Prehospital/Hospital Subcommittee has forwarded the following policies for the full EMCC committee to review and approve.

S-360, Designation of Authorized Emergency Medical Service Continuing Education Providers.

P-701, Paramedic Base Hospital Designation.

P-801, Designation of Providers of Advanced Life Support Service.

**Motion was made by Linda Rosenberg, seconded by Kelly Forman to approve the policies as written. Motion carried.**

B. Education and Research

No report.

C. Disaster Operations (Travis Kusman)

The Disaster Operations Subcommittee did not meet in December and January. Chief Hanlon and Patrick Buttron are working on recruiting for the regional management team.

Patrick Buttron reported that there will be a San Onofre Nuclear Generation Station (SONGS) exercise on April 12, 2011. A tabletop exercise will occur on April 14, 2011 in Irvine. Public Health Officers, Directors and personnel from the Department of Environmental Health and Department of Agriculture that are within a 50 miles radius around the nuclear generating station will look at how to quarantine and certify produce and water supplies.

On February 12, 2011, there will be a celebration of the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Naval Aviation. Naval Air Station North Island is hosting an open house to the military and public. Over 200 naval aircraft from pre-World War II to the present, will participate in an aerial Parade of Flight over San Diego Bay.

Navy Region Southwest is conducting an anti-terrorism enforcement protection full scale exercise at all of their installations on February 22-24, 2011. The exercise will have a small number of mass casualties that can impact systems and security on base.

The San Diego Airport Authority is preparing for their mass casualty disaster exercise in September and October.

County OES and EMS will not be participating in the Golden Guardian 2011 exercise. Staff will be attending training and an exercise in Emmitsburg, Maryland at the Emergency Management Institute. Seventy-five people will be attending the Emergency Management Institute training and exercise, including County staff from EOC, SDOC and high level County executives.

The County of San Diego, hospitals and healthcare facilities are working on a pediatric surge plan for disaster. Children's Hospital has taken the lead on education and Sharp Healthcare is hosting two sessions of courses for adult hospital personnel. Those courses are set for March and April. This is a requirement for the adult hospitals as part of their HPP grant deliverables.

**VI. EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES (EMS) MEDICAL DIRECTOR REPORT (Marcy Metz, Chief EMS)**

Four EMS providers from San Diego received awards from the EMS Commission during their meeting in San Francisco on December 1, 2010.

- Chris Olson was presented with the Meritorious Service Medal for providing superior EMS service and innovation for over 35 years with the County.
- Paul Santos was presented with the Meritorious Service Medal for performance of rescue on April 1, 2010.
- Anne Marie Jensen was presented with a Community Service Award for providing dedicated community service in organizing EMS social networking opportunities and linking that with disaster related activities with Homeland Security.
- Kevin Ruitzel was presented with a Community Service Award for providing dedicated community service organizing public access defibrillation programs in San Diego County.

Nominations for 2011 EMS Authority awards can be made throughout the year. Information can be found on the EMSA website.

Paradise Valley Hospital is now approved to receive patients with acute stroke. As of December 24, 2010, they are on the QCS system as a stroke center.

Alvarado Hospital has been purchased by Prime Healthcare. Prime Healthcare also operates Paradise Valley Hospital. There will be changes in personnel and operations; but the changes will not affect the emergency department.

Influenza has not been prominent in the community at this point in the season.

Pertussis: A News Release was sent out regarding the pertussis epidemic. In 2010, pertussis cases in the County reached a record-high of 1,140 which included two infant deaths.

Bath Salts/“Spice”: There have been several cases in the County with the synthetic cannabis “Spice”. The Poison Center has reported a number of cases with hallucinations and “bad trip” side effects. Cases of using “Bath salts”, a synthetic form of methamphetamine have also been reported. Neither of the two drugs will show up on a routine drug screening. Dr. Haynes has been working with the poison center to get information out regarding the chemical substances for medical intervention purposes.

POLST Form: The Physicians Orders for Life-Sustaining Treatment (POLST) form is under revision. EMSA will have the changes out by April 2011. The POLST form compliments the advanced directives and is not intended to replace it.

## **VII. EMS STAFF REPORT (Marcy Metz, Chief EMS)**

The EMS lobby is currently under remodel. The main entrance to the building has been moved from Glacier Avenue to Mission Gorge Road. The large conference room will be expanded and the restrooms will be made ADA compatible. Meetings may be rescheduled to alternate locations during the remodel.

The QCS system will be moved to the internet as of April 1, 2011. Computer workstation requirements should be met in order to access the iQCS system.

During the EMS Commission meeting in December, a subcommittee was appointed to review the issues that were included in the Fire “white” paper that was submitted last year. Recommendations will require legislative changes to clarify and understand sections of Health and Safety Code 1797.201, and scope of authority. The subcommittee met and presented their report to the commission with the following recommendations: support and

advise EMSA to utilize language for the basis and roadmap for developing regulations to meet the intent of the subcommittee work product, support and recommend the creation of a regulatory taskforce that mirrors EMT 2010 regulatory taskforce with the purpose to create the regulatory package that will meet the intent and recommended changes of the submitted statutory framework. The package should be completed and submitted back to the commission as soon as possible with the requested submission date of June 2011. Upon receiving the regulatory package the EMS coalition will review and modify, as necessary, the proposed language that would ensure proper authority and clarity to carry out the proposed regulations. The Commission meets again during March, in Los Angeles. Information is available on the EMS website.

#### **VIII. SET NEXT MEETING/ADJOURNMENT**

The next meeting is scheduled for February 24, 2011 at 9:00 a.m., at the County's Health and Human Services Administration Building, 1700 Pacific Highway, Room 309, San Diego.

The meeting adjourned at 9:48 a.m.

Submitted by

Janet I. Wolchko  
Administrative Secretary  
County Emergency Medical Services